

Claim 1 was discussed in the Amendment filed on December 6, 2002. Claim 1 is directed to a surface acoustic wave component having a first layer in direct contact and completely surrounding each of conductive via holes and each of internal conductive contacts.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 3 shows the first layer 11 in direct contact and completely surrounding each of the conductive via holes and each of the internal conductive contacts 111 and 112.

By surrounding each of the internal conductive contacts with the first layer, as recited in Claim 1, a cavity of the surface acoustic wave component is advantageously provided "in an unoccupied state as can be seen in Figure 3."¹ Further, the specification discloses a better propagation of surface acoustic waves is achieved by having the cavity unoccupied.² Therefore, it is respectfully submitted surrounding each of the internal conductive contacts with the first layer, as recited in Claim 1, is not a simple matter of optimizing a known device, as suggested in the outstanding Office Action.

The applied art was discussed in the Amendment filed on December 6, 2002. The outstanding Office Action states "that Onishi (368) explicitly completely surrounds pads #2, #3."³ However, Onishi et al ('368) shows in any of Figures 1-5 that a terminal 3 is not completely surrounded by a first layer 7. In other words, the terminal 3 directly protrudes in a cavity of the acoustic wave surface. Further, none of the previously applied art teaches or suggests these features.

¹Specification, page 3, lines 32-34.

²Id., page 3, lines 30-32.

³Outstanding Office Action, page 2, second full paragraph.

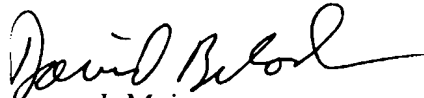
In addition, the newly cited reference of Tanaka et al shows in Figure 3 a piezoelectric substrate having one active surface 2 and internal contacts 4. In addition, a layer 3 protects the internal contacts 4 and a layer 8 seals a cavity of the acoustic wave surface. However, the protective layer 3 does not have a hollowed portion at least to a level of the active surface 2, as recited in Claim 1. Furthermore, there is no suggestion in the applied art for combining the protective layer 3 of Tanaka et al with a sealing layer 7 in Onishi et al to achieve the advantages of the first layer of Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over the applied art.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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